

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /081 W
-----044300 100705Z /14

P R 091622Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8203
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, IS
SUBJ: A PRO-DAYAN GATHERING CAUSES UNEASE AMONG THE
POLITICAL PARTIES

SUMMARY: A "NONPARTISAN" MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED FOR SEPT 10
TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR DAYAN'S POLICIES. MAJOR PARTY LEADERS, FOR
VARYING REASONS, ARE UNEASY AT THIS DEVELOPMENT. DAYAN PROBABLY
WISHES TO DEMONSTRATE HIS POLITICAL BASE IS BROADER THAN HIS
SINGLE KNESSET SEAT. SOME OBSERVERS PROFESS TO SEE THE BEGINNING
OF A RIFT BETWEEN DAYAN AND BEGIN BUT WE BELIEVE THIS IS AS YET
ONLY THEIR WISHFUL THINKING. END SUMMARY.

2. EFFORTS TO FOUND A NEW GROUP CALLED "FORUM FOR POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL DISCUSSION" HAS CAUSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INTEREST IN IS-
RAELI POLITICAL CIRCLES. THE COMMON DENOMINATOR AMONG THE FOUNDERS
OF THIS NEW BODY IS THEIR SUPPORT OF MOSHE DAYAN AND HIS POLITICAL
APPROACH; THE ORGANIZERS INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE LIKUD, THE LABOR
PARTY AND THE DMC. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR
SEPT 10, AT KFAR HAMAKABIYYA AND DAYAN WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

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2. THE GATHERING HAS GENERATED A CERTAIN UNEASE AMONG THE MAJOR
POLITICAL PARTIES. LABOR PARTY LEADERS IN PARTICULAR FEAR THAT THE
FOUNDING OF THIS NEW BODY MAY BE INTENDED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR EX-
RAFI LABOR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE DAYAN FACTION AND A LABOR
PARTY STATEMENT URGED PARTY MEMBERS NOT TO ATTEND THE DAYAN CON-
VENTION. STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE NEW BODY WAS ALSO EXPRESSED

BY LIKUD AND DMC CIRCLES. THE LATTER VOICED THE FEAR THAT THE NEW GROUP WOULD BRING ABOUT CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH THE LIKUD PLATFORM AND AIMS WHILE SEVERAL LIKUD MEMBERS STATED THAT THE INTENTION CLEARLY IS TO PREPARE A NEW POLITICAL PARTY INFRASTRUCTURE.

3. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE MEETING ARE A MIXED BAG. THEY INCLUDE ZALMAN SHOVAL OF THE LA'AM FACTION OF THE LIKUD, ISRAEL GRANIT OF DMC, AND FORMER LABOR MK MORDECHAI BEN-PORAT. THEIR EFFORTS REFLECT A CERTAIN DISSATISFACTION WITH THEIR PRESENT POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS AND HAVE CAUSED SOME CRITICISM. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOVAL EMPHASIZED THAT "THERE IS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF CAUSING A SPLIT OR FORMING A NEW PARTY," BUT OTHER LA'AM MKS, LED BY AMNON LINN, ISSUED A STATEMENT CRITICIZING SHOVAL FOR HIS PART IN ORGANIZING THE MEETING.

4. COMMENT: DAYAN HAS A NUMBER OF SYMPATHIZERS IN THE LABOR PARTY, MAINLY EX-RAFI MEMBERS, WHO ARE OPENLY DISSATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THAT PARTY. AS FOR THE DMC, IT IS CLEAR THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBERS FEEL UNEASY AND FRUSTRATED AT THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE PARTY. BOTH THESE ELEMENTS MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO A NEW GROUPING.

5. THESE MANEUVERS ARE TAKING PLACE AMID SPECULATIONS -- AND, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THOSE SPECULATIONS -- BY THE EVER-ACTIVE ISRAELI PRESS THAT A) THERE IS A DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN BEGIN AND DAYAN AND B) DISSENSION IS BEGINNING TO APPEAR

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WITHIN THE COALITION. ON THE FIRST POINT, SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE ARGUED THAT DAYAN TOOK A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LINE IN THIS KNESSET FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH SEPT 1 FROM BEGIN'S MORE ADAMANT POSITION AND SEE THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT THE TWO LEADERS HAVE DIFFERENT POLICIES ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS. (WE WERE TOLD IN CONFIDENCE THAT BEGIN HAD APPROVED THE TEXT - SEE TEL AVIV 6589. ON THE SECOND POINT, SOME ARGUE THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT IS LOSING ITS UNITY AND IS BECOMING SUBJECT TO INTERNAL DIVISIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH TROUBLED THE FORMER LABOR GOVERNMENT.

6. AS FOR DAYAN HIMSELF, WHILE HE OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PLAYS A PREDOMINANT ROLE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD, HIS STATUS DEPENDS SOLELY ON ONE PERSON - MENAHEM BEGIN. DAYAN IS NOT OVERLY POPULAR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE HERUT AND LIBERAL FACTIONS OF THE LIKUD. IF BEGIN WERE NO LONGER PRIME MINISTER DAYAN MIGHT WELL LOSE HIS POSITION AS NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE THEREFORE NEEDS TO PROVE THAT HIS POLITICAL BACKING IS BROADER THAN HIS SINGLE SEAT WOULD INDICATE, THAT HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL FORCES FROM THE LABOR PARTY, THE DMC AND OTHER GROUPS. AS FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN, DAYAN PLAYED NO PERSONAL PART IN ORGANIZING THE MEETING ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DISCOURAGE IT. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE BELIEVE HE WOULD

NOT PERMIT THE NEW GROUP, IF IT REACHES THE STAGE OF ACTUALLY
BEING A PERMANENT GROUP, TO JEOPARDIZE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH
BEGIN BY POSING A THREAT TO THE LIKUD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV06771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770328-0592
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770978/aaaacola.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ffd0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1322300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A PRO-DAYAN GATHERING CAUSES UNEASE AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMARY: A "NONPARTISAN" MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED F
TAGS: PGOV, IS, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ffd0d49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009